

INFORMATION ABOUT:



Requirements for Locating and Maintaining Unpatented Mining Claims

U.S. Department of the Interior

5353 Yellowstone Road
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

Bureau of Land Management

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DETERMINING LAND STATUS

Anyone wishing to locate mining claims must determine if the land they wish to claim is open to location under the mining laws. Visit the local BLM Field Office or the BLM State Office and check maps, Master Title Plats, and mining claim records. Mining claim information may be obtained from both the BLM State Office and County Recorders Office. Information on the status of federally owned land in Wyoming may be obtained from the official public land records on file at the BLM Wyoming State Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

BLM has no jurisdiction over matters concerning ownership of claims that are topped filed over existing claims. Overstaking issues will be determined through civil court actions between rival claimants.

Mining claims located on land that is not open to mineral location are null and void from the beginning, and trespass action may be brought against the claimant.

LOCATING (STAKING) CLAIMS

Post location notices in a conspicuous place at the point of discovery of locatable minerals as soon as discovery is made.

Placer claims are monumented at each claim corner to mark the location distinctly on the ground. This must be done within 90 days of location. The maximum size of a placer claim is 20 acres per individual claimant (up to 160 acres).

Lode claims have six (6) monuments, one at each claim corner and in the center of the side lines. This must be done within 60 days of location. Lode claims are limited to 1500 feet in length and 600 feet in width, 300 feet on either side of the centerline.

RECORDING CLAIMS

Lode claims are to be recorded in the County Recorders Office in the county where they are located within 60 days of the date of location. Placer claims are to be recorded in the County Recorders Office within 90 days of the date of location. A County recording fee is required.

Both lode and placer mining claims, must be filed with the BLM State Office within 90 days of the date of location.

All mining claims and sites located on or after August 11, 1993, and on or before September 30, 2001, must pay at the time of recording a \$25.00 non refundable location fee, a \$100.00 maintenance fee (to cover the assessment year of location), and a \$10.00 nonrefundable service fee.

Claims not timely filed with the BLM are rejected and void.

FILING MAINTENANCE FEE OR NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOLD CLAIMS

Claimants holding 10 or fewer claims nationwide may qualify for the small miners waiver. The waiver form must be received on or before September 1st each year. Once a claimant has qualified for the waiver, they must perform assessment work on the claim(s). An assessment document and a \$5.00 per claim filing fee must be recorded with the BLM State Office on or before December 30th each year.

The \$100.00 maintenance fee per claim or site must be received by the BLM State Office on or before September 1st of each year.

Any claim that has not had the \$100 maintenance fee paid, or waiver form filed on or before September 1st of each year through the year 2001 will be declared forfeited and will be closed.

When a notice deferment of assessment is filed, a notice of intent to hold the claim must be filed at the same time. There is a \$25.00 filing fee for the deferment and a \$5.00 per claim filing fee for the notice of intent to hold the claims.

The maintenance fee document, small miners waiver form and assessment affidavits must be recorded in the County Recorders Office. A County recording fee is required.

TRANSFERRING OR AMENDING MINING CLAIMS

Transfers, or amendment of mining claims (all or part) must be recorded with the BLM State Office within 60 days of the action being taken. A \$5.00 per claim filing fee is required.

ABANDONING OR RELINQUISHING MINING CLAIMS

Although not required, notification to the BLM of abandoned or relinquished claims would be appreciated. Such notification should include the BLM serial number. No filing fee is required.

MINING CLAIMS LOCATED ON SPLIT ESTATE LANDS

On April 16, 1993, Congress amended the Stock Raising Homestead Act. New requirements must be met before mining claims can be located on split estate lands. Split estate lands are those lands where the surface has been patented and the minerals were reserved to the United States under the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916. Claimants must record a Notice of Intent to Locate (NOITL) Mining Claims with the BLM State Office, and the surface owner before entering the land or locating mining claims. No mineral exploration or location of mining claims can take place until a NOITL is recorded. Once all the NOITL requirements are met the land is segregated for 90 days for exploration and location of mining claims. There is a \$25.00 nonrefundable service charge for recording a NOITL with the BLM State Office.

FOR SPECIFIC MINING CLAIM INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT REQUIRED DOCUMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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For More Information, visit our website at:
www.wy.blm.gov